

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESCAP

SUBJECT: 31ST ESCAP PLENARY SESSION: AGENDA ITEMS
5(E) (NATURAL RESOURCES) AND 6(A) (REGIONAL PROJECTS)

NEW DELHI FOR USDEL FERGUSON AND STOKES
BANGKOK FOR RED

FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS 5(E) AND 6(A)
RECEIVED FROM REINEMUND USGS AS AGREED IN DISCUSSION WITH
STOKES ON FEBRUARY 20.

1. AGENDA ITEM 5(E). POSITION PAPERS ALREADY SUBMITTED
RELATIVE TO 5(E) (IV) AND 5(E) (V). COMMENTS RELATIVE
TO OTHER SUB-ITEMS AS FOLLOWS:
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(I) IMPROVED COLLECTION, COMPILATION, AND REPORTING OF WATER STATISTICS ARE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE TO WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT IN ESCAP REGION. U.S. POSITION SHOULD BE TO SUPPORT MOVES TOWARD IMPROVEMENT AND INDICATE WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE U.S. TECHNICAL INFORMATION THAT MAY BE USEFUL ON THIS SUBJECT.

(II) GREATER ATTENTION TO CONJUNCTIVE MANAGEMENT OF SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE WATER IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO PROMOTE UNDERGROUND STORAGE OF EXCESS SURFACE WATER FOR LATER USE. U.S. SHOULD SUPPORT THE PLAN FOR A SEMINAR.

(III) JOINT MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES BY COUNTRIES WITHIN SPECIFIC HYDROLOGIC BASINS SHOULD BE A PRIMARY CONCERN OF ESCAP, ESPECIALLY FOR BASINS WITH WIDE FLUCTUATIONS IN RAINFALL AND STREAM FLOW. U.S. SHOULD SUPPORT MEASURES LEADING TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE.

(VI) TIN CENTER HAS CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE FOR RESEARCH ON TIN RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT TECHNIQUES. U.S. SHOULD COMMEND PROGRESS BEING MADE BY COUNTRIES AND UNDP AND ENCOURAGE THEIR EFFORTS.

ALTHOUGH U.S. HAS IN PAST QUESTIONED NEED FOR AND CONCEPT OF REGIONAL MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER, BELIEVE ONLY REASONABLE COURSE NOW IS TO EXPRESS HOPE THAT CENTER WILL BECOME FULLY OPERATIONAL AND RECEIVE ADEQUATE SUPPORT FROM ESCAP COUNTRIES. U.S. HAS PREVIOUSLY OFFERED AND SHOULD RENEW OFFER TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON U.S. TECHNOLOGY FOR USE BY THIS CENTER AND SHOULD AGREE TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR SHORT-TERM CONSULTANTS IN SPECIALIZED MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT TECHNIQUES TO HELP CENTER.

(VII) POSTPONEMENT OF FIFTH PETROLEUM SYMPOSIUM IS DESIRABLE IN VIEW OF MEETINGS ALREADY SCHEDULED IN 1975 AND 1976. HOWEVER, U.S. FEELS PAST SYMPOSIUMS HAVE BEEN VALUABLE AND U.S. SHOULD ENCOURAGE HOLDING FIFTH SYMPOSIUM AS SOON AS FEASIBLE AFTER 1976.
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2. AGENDA ITEM 6(A)

(II) U.S. BELIEVES CCOP (EAST ASIA) IS EFFECTIVE MECHANISM FOR INITIATING AND COORDINATING STUDIES OF OFFSHORE RESOURCES, EXCHANGING INFORMATION ON EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION OF RESOURCES, AND PROMOTING TRAINING IN METHODS OF RESOURCE ASSESSMENT. U.S. IS

PARTICIPATING THROUGH ASSIGNMENT OF USGS RESOURCES SPECIALISTS TO HELP CCOP UNDER REIMBURSEMENT FROM UNDP; THROUGH CONDUCTING MARINE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS UNDER IOC--IDOE PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION; AND THROUGH SUPPLY OF DATA FROM AIRBORNE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS OF NAVY PROJECT MAGNET.

S. SHOULD COMMEND EXCELLENT PROGRESS MADE BY CCOP ESPECIALLY IN ORGANIZING JOINT CCOP/IOC/IDOE PROGRAM FOR STUDY OF TECTONICS AND RESOURCES OF EAST ASIA CONTINENTAL MARGINS. THIS PROGRAM REPRESENTS OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF JOINT PLANNING AND RESEARCH BETWEEN UN AGENCIES, NATIONAL AGENCIES, AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS WHICH COULD BE USEFULLY FOLLOWED ELSEWHERE.

U.S. SHOULD ALSO COMMEND EFFORTS OF CCOP TO DEFINE AND INITIATE MORE INTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR REGION AND INDICATE USGS WILLINGNESS CONSIDER HELPING WITH SUCH TRAINING TO EXTENT FEASIBLE.

CCOP WAS ENTHUSIASTIC CO-SPONSOR OF CIRCUM-PACIFIC CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY AMERICAN ASSOCIATION PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS IN AUGUST 1974 AND IS PARTICIPATING THROUGH THE CIRCUM-PACIFIC COUNCIL IN U.S.-LED EFFORTS TO COMPILE RESOURCES MAPS OF PACIFIC AND TO ORGANIZE ANOTHER CONFERENCE IN 1978. HIGHLY EFFECTIVE COOPERATION THUS EXISTS BETWEEN MANY U.S. AGENCIES AND CCOP, AND U.S. SHOULD EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THIS COOPERATION.

PRINCIPAL U.S. CONCERN IS THAT CCOP WILL AVOID COMMITMENTS BEYOND ITS CAPACITY AND THUS DILUTE SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES WITH GREATEST POTENTIAL.

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(III) U.S. BELIEVES CCOP (SOPAC) SERVES AS EFFECTIVE MECHANISM FOR COORDINATING RESOURCES SURVEYS, TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN SOUTH PACIFIC REGION SIMILAR TO CCOP (EAST ASIA) ALTHOUGH WIDE DISPERSAL AND LIMITED RESOURCES OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES MAKE PROGRESS INHERENTLY MORE DIFFICULT. U.S. IS PARTICIPATING MAINLY THROUGH REPRESENTATION AND EXCHANGE BY U.S. OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTIONS. U.S. IS ALSO CONSIDERING HELP, THROUGH THE NATIONAL SCIENCE

FOUNDATION, IN ORGANIZING A WORKSHOP NEXT SEPTEMBER TO DEVELOP A JOINT CCOP (SOPAC)/IOC/IDOE MARINE RESOURCES RESEARCH PROGRAM.

U.S. SHOULD COMMEND CCOP (SOPAC) PROGRESS IN ASSEMBLING

INFORMATION ON RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS AND PROBLEMS
IN AREA, AND IN DEFINING RESOURCES PROGRAMS NEEDED.
PRINCIPAL U.S. CONCERN IS THAT CCOP (SOPAC) IS NOT
SUFFICIENTLY COORDINATED WITH CCOP (EAST ASIA), IS
COMPETING FOR SUPPORT FROM SAME SOURCES, AND MAY FIND
ITSELF UNABLE TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM IF SUCH SUPPORT IS
NOT FORTHCOMING PROMPTLY. KISSINGER

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